

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00 /063 W
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O 190620Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6515
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, SY, US, EG, IS
SUBJECT: SYRIA ACCUSES SADAT OF FORMING "AXIS" WITH ISRAEL TO SERVE
U.S. REGIONAL INTERESTS

1. AMONG CHARGES HURLED AT SADAT BY SYRIAN OFFICIALS AND
MEDIA, IS THAT SADAT PLANS TO TURN EGYPT INTO U.S. SURROGATE
ALONG WITH ISRAEL TO PROTECT U.S. REGIONAL INTERESTS
IN ME AND AFRICA. THEME GIVEN ITS MOST PROMINENT TREATMENT
TO DATE IN FRONT PAGE JAN. 18 AL-BAATH EDITORIAL IN WHICH
IZZIDIN IDRIS ACCUSED U.S. OF PSYCHOLOGICALLY CONDITIONING
SADAT TO WORK ALONG WITH ISRAEL TO STRIKE AT LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS AND REGIMES WHICH DO NOT FOLLOW POLICIES IN ACCORD
WITH U.S. INTERESTS. POLICY IS LINKED TO OUR VIETNAM
EXPERIENCE RESULTING IN U.S. DESIRE TO EMPLOY ALLIES WHO
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WILL CONDUCT MILITARY OPERATIONS ON ITS BEHALF.
COLUMNIST CLAIMED THAT WHILE ISRAEL WOULD RETAIN ITS
PREEMINENT ROLE IN US STRATEGIC THINKING IT NEEDED
ALLIES AMONG ITS FORMER ENEMIES AND SADAT WAS THE CHOICE.
ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN "PACT," HE AVERRED, WOULD EVENTUALLY
INCLUDE SUDAN, MOROCCO, IRAN AND OTHERS ALONG LINE OF
CENTO AND BAGHDAD PACT. COLUMNIST ASSERTED THAT SUCH

PLANS POSED THREAT TO PROGRESSIVE ARAB, AFRICAN REGIMES AS WELL AS EASTERN BLOC AND WESTERN EUROPE AND PREDICTED THAT THIS "PLAN" WOULD BE OPPOSED BY COUNTRIES AGAINST WHICH IT TARGETED.

2. EVEN SADAT'S RECENT COMPLAINTS ABOUT ISRAEL'S LACK OF RECIPROCITY TO HIS JERUSALEM VISIT VIEWED BY SEVERAL COLUMNISTS AS A GAME BEING SPUN OUT BY THE U.S. AND EGYPT. THAWRA COLUMNIST JAN. 17 ALLEGED THAT SUCH DIFFERENCES ARE MANUFACTURED SO IT WON'T BE PERCEIVED THAT THINGS ARE GOING SMOOTHLY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. REPORT THAT SADAT ATTEMPTED TO SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION VIEWED AS PLOY USED IN THIS "GAME." THESE CRISES SEEN AS WAY FOR U.S. TO TAKE CREDIT FOR BRIDGING DIFFERENCES. ULTIMATE AIM IS TO ALLOW SADAT TO APPEAR SUCCESSFUL WHEN A "CAPITULATIONIST" SOLUTION IS FINALLY REACHED. THIS EDITORIAL ECHOED TISHRIIN EDITORIAL OF PREVIOUS DAY WHICH SAY CURRENT DIFFICULTIES AS THEATRICALS CONTRIVED TO LEAD TO "A HAPPY ENDING IN SADAT'S FILM"--A BILATERAL SOLUTION.

3. KHADDAM'S RECENT ASSERTION TO CONGRESSMAN CAVANAUGH DURING CODEL ZABLOCKI VISIT THAT CAVANAUGH WAS NOT FAR OFF THE MARK IN HIS ASSERTION THAT SYRIA WISHED TO "DESTROY SADAT" FINDS EXPRESSION IN SYRIAN MEDIA. JAN. 17 AL-BAATH EDITORIAL CLAIMED THAT SADAT'S SERIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF "CONCESSIONS" WOULD BE A LONG ONE. IT EXHORTED THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT TO RAISE ITS EFFORTS TO THE LEVEL CALLED FOR BY THE GRAVITY OF THE "PLOT" FACING THE ARABS AND TO "BRING DOWN THE SADAT REGIME WHICH IS THE INSTRUMENT OF THE PLOT." JIBRAN KURIYYA WRITING IN TISHRIIN ALSO PLACED SADAT BEYOND REDEMPTION. WHILE NOTING THAT THE U.S. HAS THROWN ITS WEIGHT BEHIND ATTEMPTS TO CONCLUDE A BILATERAL DEAL, HE DECLARED, "THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY FROM THE ARAB POINT OF VIEW LIES WITH THE SADAT REGIME AND NO DECLARATION OF ALLEGED REMORSE WILL HELP ABSOLVE THAT REGIME FROM ITS RESPONSIBILITY."

4. IN THIS VEIN, KHADDAM'S RECENT CRYPTIC REMARK TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE U.S. "IS IN NO HURRY TO AFFECT EVENTS IN THIS AREA" HAS BEEN EXPANDED UPON IN RECENT EDITORIAL COMMENT. US ACCUSED OF TRYING TO PROLONG NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO EXTRACT EVERY POSSIBLE CONCESSION FROM SADAT PRIOR TO CONCLUDING AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD TEMPT OTHER PARTIES TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO PUT THE AGREEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. IT PREDICTED THAT THESE EFFORTS WILL FAIL AND U.S. WILL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR SEPARATE SOLUTION CLOAKED AS THE

FIRST STAGE OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD BE
TOTALLY IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR.

5. DESPITE THE FOREGOING, MANY EDITORIALS CONTINUE TO
ASSERT THAT PRIOR TO SADAT'S INITIATIVE ARABS WERE WORKING
FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT AND THAT REMAINS THE ULTIMATE GOAL.
TISHRIIN OF JAN. 18 FOR EXAMPLE
ASSERTED THAT "THE ARABS WITH SYRIA AT THE FOREFRONT WANT
A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. BUT THIS PEACE CANNOT BE REACHED
BY CAPITULATION TO HUMILIATING ISRAELI TERMS OR BY PLACING
THE CARDS IN US HANDS." FAMILIAR REFRAIN IS THAT SADAT
WITH US SUPPORT DESTROYED PROMISING PEACE EFFORTS WHICH
WERE UNDERWAY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 19 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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